Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02293 291559Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6946

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ADANA

L/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3477

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 2293

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, UT, GR

SUBJ: AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

1. IN MARCH 29 MEETING WITH MFA DIRGEN FOR MULTILATERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, SELCUK KORKUD (SEPTELS), EMBOFFS ASKED FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS. KORKUD BEGAN BY REVIEWING THE BERN AGREEMENT, THE POINT OF WHICH IS TO MAKE POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS AS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HAD RECOMMENDED. ARTICLE ONE IS THE KEY ARTICLE OF THE AGREEMENT; THE OTHER ARTICLES ARE "DESIGNED TO FACILITATE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02293 291559Z

NEGOTIATIONS". CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN AT LONDON THE GREEKS HAD INSISTED ON ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION (AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE EIGHT) BEFORE NEGOTIATING, THE TALKS HAD STALLED.

2. TURKEY HAS RECENTLY PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS THAT THE COMMISSION MUST BE ESTABLLSHED PARALLEL WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS, KORKUD SAID. THE NEGOTIATORS

WOULD MEET AND THEN ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION. ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ASSIST THE NEGOTIATORS IN PRODUCING ALTERNATIVES FOR THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS. KORKUD SAID THAT THE GOT WAS FULLY PREPARED FOR THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS, EITHER AT THE FONMIN OR AT THE HEADS OF DELEGATION LEVEL. THE GOT WAS WAITING FOR THE GREEKS TO RESPOND AND TO PROPOSE A DATE. KORKUD NOTED THAT TURKISH AMBASSADOR TEZEL WOULD BE RETURNING FROM ATHENS THIS WEEK. AS TO SEPCULATION THAT THE GOT WAS NOT PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT OR BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD, KORKUD SAID THAT THOSE WHO DID NOT WANT TO NEGOTIATE COULD ALWAYS FIND A WAY OUT, BUT TAT THE GOT WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE.

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